

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: M. SCHNEIDER )  
 ) Examiner:  
 Application No.: [U.S. National Stage of PCT/EP99/03870] )  
 ) Group Art Unit:  
 Filed: December 5, 2000 [Herewith] )  
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 Title: METHOD FOR PRODUCING CARDBOARD )  
 MATCHES AND CORRESPONDING )  
 CARDBOARD MATCHES, ESPECIALLY FOR )  
 BOOKS OF MATCHES )  
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ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
 WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

Preliminarily, kindly amend the application as follows.

In the Claims

Please amend claims as follows.

3. (Amended) A method for producing cardboard matches as claimed in claim 1 [or 2], characterized in that the piece of cardboard (1) is provided with an oblong shape, with the longitudinal extension of the piece of cardboard (1) being produced in particular nearly twice as long as its transversal direction.

5. (Amended) A method for producing cardboard matches as claimed in [one of the preceding claims] claim 1, characterized in that a first section extending from the first transversal side (3) of the piece of cardboard (1) is bent or folded, so that the first transversal side (3) comes to lie preferably behind the second transversal side (3) or adjacent to the same.

7. (Amended) A method for producing cardboard matches as claimed in [one of the preceding claims] claim 1, characterized in that a specially line-shaped weakening zone (6) is

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